Fellowship in Prayer

"For a world united in prayer"

"Heavenly Father, we thank thee for the vision and the assurances of Christmas. May thy Spirit abide with us in all the days before us. Hallow our tasks that in all things we may remember thee and rejoice to serve thee." Amen.

Volume VIII December, 1957 Number 6

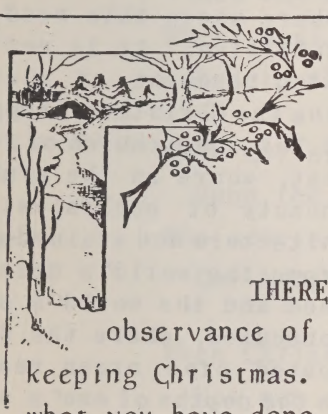
OUR PURPOSE

To promote the practice of prayer among *all* religious faiths whose fundamental belief is in God, regardless of race, creed, or color, and whose tenets include the universal attributes of truth, honesty, justice and mercy, that thereby there may arise a closer relation to Almighty God and a deeper spirit of fellowship among mankind.

FELLOWSHIP IN PRAYER

22 E. 29th Street New York 16, N.Y.

Volume VIII December, 1957 Number 6



KEEPING CHRISTMAS

THERE IS a better thing than the observance of Christmas day, and that is, keeping Christmas. Are you willing to forget what you have done for other people, and to remember what other people have done for you; to ignore what the world owes you, and to think what you owe the world; to put your rights in the background, and your duties in the middle distance, and your chances to do a little more than your duty in the foreground; to see that your fellowmen are just as real as you are, and try to look behind their faces to their hearts, hungry for joy; to own that probably the only good reason for your existence is not what you are going to get out of life, but what you are going to give to life; to close your book of complaints against the management of the universe, and look around you for a place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness—are you willing to do these things even for a day?

Then you can keep Christmas.

-- *Henry Van Dyke.*

THE WONDERING SOUL

By Robert Wells Youngs, D.D.

"And all that heard it wondered . . ." (the Christmas Story from Luke).

These words describe the effect of the Christmas Story upon those who heard it when first it was told. From this time on, Christmas has possessed the power to make men wonder. Christmas, with its star on high and its manger lowly — Christmas, with the music of heavenly hosts and the homage of kings — Christmas, with its ideals of peace and good will — Christmas, with the wise men's journey and the shepherds' praise— such Christmas has filled men's souls with a wonder which produced Bach's inimitable music, Dickens' Carol, and Raphael's "Madonna della Sedia."

We in this world of 1957 should rejoice that Christmas still has the power to induce our wonder, for we need desperately to wonder today. We need to wonder because wonder takes us above the sordid troubled world of things as they appear into the spiritual heights where truly God is.

But let us understand clearly that there is only one atmosphere where this need can be fulfilled. It is not the crowded basement of a store during the Christmas shopping rush but some church of Jesus Christ, where in the symbolic beauty of ecclesiastical architecture and stained-glass windows the world's noise is hushed and the world's stain is obscured, where the deep-throated pipe organ reaches into the depths of man's soul, where sacred music of robed choirs lifts the worshiper to the divine heights of the spiritual, where God's presence is invited through His altar, and where in disciplined prayer and meditation there is true communion with the Heavenly Father who gave His Unspeakable Gift to the world.

Let us all go to church this Christmas time that we may have spiritual eyes of wonder behind the spectacles of worldly knowledge and that in the mystery of the sanctuary we may mount above the temporal turmoil and strife of life to a Reality that abides through the ages.

oooOooo

WHEN CHRISTMAS COMES

When Christmas comes - we marvel
How any miss the Way
Where Magi in a manger
Beheld the Light of Day.

When Christmas comes - we ponder
Upon the Plan of God
Who sent so sweet a Saviour;
Our human paths He trod.

When Christmas comes - we wonder
How men can fail to sing
When angels in glad chorus
Made ancient hillsides ring.

When Christmas comes - remember
How Love to earth came down
That we might glimpse God's splendor
And share the cross and crown.

When Christmas comes - we offer
Our fervent prayer that all
With hearts made warm and tender
May hear the Christ Child call.

-- *Alvin A. Jones.*

✠

I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. -- *Charles Dickens.*

oooOooo

THE FACT OF CHRISTMAS

By W. J. Thompson, D.D.

The return of Christmas is the persistent reminder that no matter how gloomy the international or individual scene may appear this world has been given a revelation of Divine Love for us all in the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. There are those who ask, "How can we believe a message of peace and goodwill when everywhere the noise of strife and hostility seems to drown out angelic voices?" This is a limited viewpoint, and reveals a concentration on fear, and a lack of faith in God. It shows a regrettable failure to realize the persistency of Christmas with its inspiring witness to the victory of the eternal and omnipotent Power of God! One reason why so many are confused as they compare the world situation with the Christmas message is that they look at the gloom existing among nations, and then think of the Christmas story in terms of the angels, the shepherds, the wise men, the star, and a hundred other things, instead of going to Him who is the direct reason for the existence of the Christmas story! Do not misunderstand me. I do not undervalue the beauty and significance of the various things connected with the narrative of our Lord's birth in Bethlehem. But I truly believe that if we are to know the real meaning of Christmas and also keep hope in our minds and souls as we look at the world today, we must fix our gaze upon Jesus Christ who is the center of the picture. If the Lord is ignored, the Christmas story loses its meaning. This is supremely important, not only in our celebration of Christmas, but in our evaluation of present conditions affecting the world. Here is a world - in spite of its scientific marvels and modern progress - distressed, discouraged, and even desperate in its struggle to find durable peace and security. Our brilliant statesmen, philosophers, and social prophets are unable to eliminate the fear and uncertainty all around us. But there is a real and complete answer to this agelong cry for peace. It is found in the message of the angel to the startled shepherds, "Fear not: For, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of

David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." *(Luke 2, 10-11)*. Now is realized the word of the prophet: "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." *(Isaiah 9;6)*.

The Christmas Child brings into view
The Lord of past and future too!
Looking upon His tiny face
We see the King of time and space!

The Babe of Bethlehem seems small--
The Christ Eternal reaches all;
And now we learn these two are one--
The Christmas Child is God the Son!

Oh, Tiny Boy! Oh, Lord Divine--
Thy Presence causes life to shine!
We find the everlasting God
In the Babe on Bethlehem's road!

Kneeling before the Lord who came to earth at Christmas, we find Peace, and Power, and Partnership with God! This is the secret of a happy Christmas and a glorious New Year!

MY CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Dear Father, earnestly we pray,
For guidance and for light.
We have been blessed abundantly,
To Thee, we owe our might.

Yet we, a mighty nation seem
Amid discord to stand,
And to establish peace on earth,
We need a helping hand.

So in Thy wisdom help us, Lord,
This blessed season when
We need Thee so, to bring good will
And peace on earth to men.

-- *Anna M. Carroll.*

oooOooo

THE STARS AND FAITH

By Roy Wallace Thomas

Among other things the Christmastide brings joyfully to mind the miracle of life in its marvelous cosmic setting. The Christmas story is quite in tune with the thrill of the Psalmist as expressed in Jesus' hymnbook:

The heavens are telling the glory of God,
And the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

In this way the inspired poets of ancient Israel worshiped the Creator of the mysterious objects gleaming in the vault of the sky, while primitive man in his ignorance worshiped the stars themselves. The thought of the Psalmist is exquisitely retold in Joseph Addison's famous classic, appropriately set to Hayden's majestic tune, Creation:

The spacious firmament on high,
With all the blue ethereal sky,
And spangl'd heav'ns, a shining frame,
Their great Original proclaim.

It is good at Christmastime to sing this great Creation hymn along with the hauntingly beautiful carols.

It is fitting that in the old story of Jesus' birth the Magi and the shepherds are pictured as stargazing. It was no sentimental performance on their part. Pity the informed man who, on a cloudless night, can look at the stars without having them tell him wondrous things. Pity the man who can look at a babe without feeling the glory universal to life.

I cannot forget an experience my wife and I had decades ago when home missionaries in the Upper Colorado River Valley. We were making our first round of calls to get acquainted. One of our church members horrified us by saying it would not be necessary to stop at the next house since "Only Mexicans" lived there. We walked straight to that cottage, and as we stepped upon the porch we found the door half open. A scene met our eyes that would have delighted any artist.

A slim, brown-skinned mother stood holding her month-old babe in her arms, her handsome husband peering over her shoulder. The tiny, jet-haired infant, swart like his father, was dainty as a doll. It was plain from the rapture on the faces of the parents that, although the humble custodians of this little miracle for four weeks, they were still held in mute gratitude at the wonder of what had come

to them. We had a most enjoyable visit.

As we left, I glanced back, the mother was again holding the child in her arms, already forgetful of us, and the faces of both parents were rapt as if in reverent worship. I received a fresh impression of what Joseph's face was like as he gazed into the manger at Bethlehem. And this lovely young Mexican mother never dreamed that she made a perfect model for the Madonna.

I mused on the mystery and wonder of life, as we rode away. If we would trace the ancestry of that brown babe, astonishing facts would be discovered. On the one side the infant was descended from the glory of proud Spain. On the other, as anthropologists have laid bare, is the heritage of the marvelous Aztec civilization of centuries ago. I thought of the miraculous origin of all life. God is the Creator of us all, and he has no favorites. He loves all his children.

In human life, God's divinity overflows. In Jesus, from babe to maturity, God did a perfect thing. He revealed what life is like at the richest and fullest. It is the meaning of Christmas that every cradle is sacred, every birth is a miracle. Each human being—Caucasian, African, Mexican—is a child of God, entitled to his full heritage of dignity and rights. Herein is joy ineffable to the worshiper whose eyes are open to the full reaches of God's divinity, both in nature and in life.

No wonder that the first Christmas story is touched with cosmic splendor—a superstar in the heavens and an oratorio by a great angelic chorus. It is not necessary for the astronomer to explain the Star of Bethlehem, whether it was a conjunction of bright planets or a giant comet. God's wonders never cease. The farther the devout scientist makes exploration into the incomprehensible reaches of space or into the structure of the atom, or into the deeps of the human mind, the more he finds there is to know. The finite mind never can catch up with the full power of comprehension of the Infinite Mind.

Today, through the advance of knowledge, we know that there are three firmaments. There is the marvelous firmament of planets, stars, and incredible galaxies in the sky around our earth. There is the firmament of baffling wonder at the heart of each of the infinity of atoms. And there is the majestic firmament within us of Kant's moral law, of Jesus' kingdom of spir-

it. In the first firmament is immeasurable space. In the second, the corridor to the basic energy of the universe. Greatest of all, in the third firmament is the door that opens directly upon the presence of God. It was Jesus' mission to persuade men to open wide every one of these doors to God. And greater than *all* is God himself, as Jesus made very clear.

At this new Christmastide, I, for one, will pray as I did recently at a large meeting of elderly saints, on whose heads are gathering the snow of winter, but who, like Victor Hugo, have "eternal springtime" in their hearts. This is my prayer—

O God, thou alone art infinitely great. Greater art thou than all thy handiwork; greater than the firmament of countless galaxies of suns and solar systems where, certain of our wise men tell us, spin one hundred million planets with life like ours. And we need not doubt that a choir invisible of trillions of illumined minds throughout the unfathomable reaches of thy universe join in spirit with ours in singing thy praise, for thou art the God and Creator of all. Greater art thou than all that has been thought and written about thee. Greater is Jesus than the humble records that tell of him. From Jesus, and not from the stars, we learn what thou art really like. Although our bodies are literally stardust, made of soil from this dusty fragment of star we call the earth, we know that "a spark disturbs our clod." We know that our spirits are outthrusts of thy Spirit, outthrusts from thy loving heart, which Jesus so graciously revealed. We know that we are candles lighted by thee who art Creative Fire. We thank thee for the wonder and miracle of life through sonship with thee. Humbly we deepen our faith in the spirit of Jesus Christ—

Each heart an altar,
Thy love the flame. Amen.

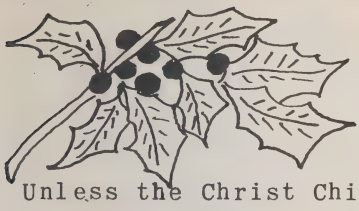
Truth's Gift

Deep in your heart this truth enshrine—
Christ is the gift of this Christmas time.
And thro' this living One divine
All that the Father has is thine.

--S. A. S.

(Sent by Pauline A. Taylor)

oooOooo



WHAT CHRISTMAS MEANS TO ME

By Harry Halsey Starrett

Unless the Christ Child is born in my heart, the real meaning of Christmas is lost. Unless the star, which stood over and shed its light upon the manger in which the Christ Child was born in Bethlehem some two thousand years ago, stand over and illumines my life, leading me "in the paths of righteousness, for His name's sake," then Christmas is just another day. If, on this hallowed and joyous occasion of Christmas, we feel the Love and the Light and the Power of God flooding our whole being, shining through us, out into the world, illuming and uplifting and helping all who come into our presence, then Christmas is indeed a sublime and meaningful event.

The full significance of Christmas depends upon our relationship with God. He whose birth we celebrate at this time, admonished us "Except ye be born again, ye cannot see the kingdom of God." The birth of the Christ within our hearts marks this rebirth, and it is only through this rebirth that we can come into the glorious fullness of life by becoming one with that Life. To feel the eternal presence of the Christ is to be lifted up out of the unreal into the Real; out of darkness into the Light; out of death into Eternal Life and as we are lifted up, we lift others up with us. "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." As we receive Divine help, we can help those who are struggling in the darkness of ignorance for the Light of Truth, that through Truth they may find freedom, that in freedom they may better serve God, helping to extend His kingdom on earth, that His will may be done on earth as it is done in heaven, hastening the day when the promised "Peace on earth, good will among all men" may become a glorious REALITY.

And when we feel the presence of the Christ within us, let us all join in that glad refrain—

"Joy to the world, the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing."

"Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace to men of good will."

THE TRUE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

By Carl Homes

Christmas time is a joyous and intimate season. It is filled with generous urges, self-forgetting impulses, spontaneous deeds; a time when our hearts are filled with song, when worldly cares and troubles are forgotten for the moment in thoughtfulness of others. "As the purse is emptied the heart is filled."—*Victor Hugo.*

Life seems better at Christmas. People are more friendly. We stop looking ahead to pleasures and find them in today.

Arthur Reed Kimball once wrote: "The chief charm of Christmas is its simplicity. It is a festival that appeals to everyone, because everyone can understand it. A genuine fellowship pervades our common life — a fellowship whose source is our common share in the gift of the world's greatest Life, which was given to the whole world."

Christmas brings out the best in people. It inspires kindness, brotherhood, and affection among men. It stimulates happiness, cheerfulness, and helpfulness everywhere. It elevates the moral, the ethical, and the religious values of life.

The greatest gifts are not wrapped in bright colored packages. They are the gifts of ourselves; helpfulness, love, kindness, and sympathy.

Christmas should mean more than just a holiday; the getting and giving of presents, the enjoyment of the things that we can see, and hear, and the satisfying of the senses.

Christmas should have a spiritual significance to us all because it is the celebration of the anniversary of the birth of Jesus Christ who brought love, joy, and peace into the world.

The world needs today the Christmas spirit of love that reveals itself in the giving of gifts; the joy that comes from helping others, and the peace that comes from God when we try to live together in accordance with His laws.

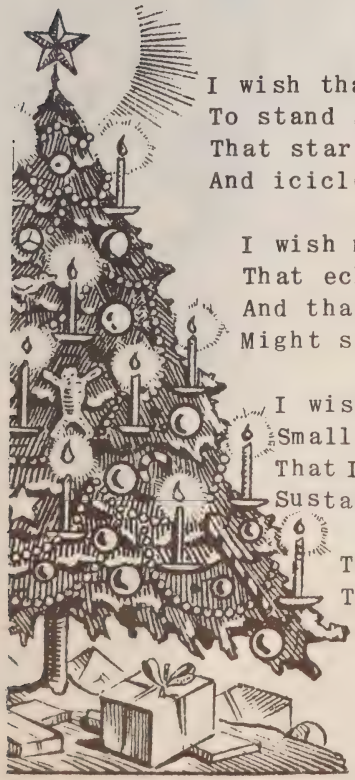
The message of Christmas, *"Peace on earth to men of good will," is the Golden* Rule for world peace today. Peace and good will are inseparable. We cannot have peace without good will toward men. Peace and good will are more than words. They are born out of acts of unselfishness and love. Peace on earth would be the noblest gift that man could bring to this old world today.

Nevertheless, love, joy,

and peace can be yours and mine when we accept the truth that Christmas is a continuing condition of the spirit, a never ceasing gift of God's love. Let us try to live so that the Christmas spirit will come and stay in our hearts, making blessed this day and all tomorrows.

"Tis not enough that Christ was born
Beneath the star that shone,
And earth was set that morn
Without a golden zone.
He must be born within the heart,
Before He finds His throne,
And brings the day of love and good,
The reign of Christlike brotherhood."

-- *Mary T. Lathrop.*



A CHRISTMAS WISH

I wish that I could be a Christmas tree,
To stand so tall and straight and know
That star rays light my boughs for all to see,
And icicles like silver tinsel glow.

I wish my branches knew the lullabye
That echoed from a manger long ago,
And that the song of angels lifted high
Might sound again within the falling snow.

I wish my limbs would cradle all young things,
Small woodland creatures nestle close to me
That I might know warm heartbeats under wings
Sustaining life like Him of Galilee.

This is the wish I hold inside of me
That I might be a lovely Christmas tree.

-- *Zelma Dennis.*

GRACE BEF

Bread of Life, without Whom
We perish even while we exist,
Grant that we may feed on Thee
In our hearts by a perpetual
Thanksgiving: make us more willing
To share with the less fortunate;
And only forgive us our sins
As we amend our selfish ways.

ORE MEALS

May this food which our bodies
Now partake, nourish also our
Spirits, that we may have strength
Increasingly to glorify Thee,
Apart from Whom nothing is strong,
Nothing has any real meaning.

Amen.

FELLOWSHIP IN PRAYER BORN DECEMBER 12, 1949

Eight Years Later . . .

The twelfth day of the Christmas month brings the eighth anniversary of that day when Carl Allison Evans and the small group of those who had caught his vision set forth the purpose of Fellowship in Prayer and declared their willingness to give active service to "the promotion of the practice of prayer," drawing *all* men into closer relationship with God and with each other.

Looking back through the vicissitudes of the years, we gratefully acknowledge the divine guidance we have known, and the prayerful steadfastness of our fellow workers. Only these have brought us to the joy of this moment: joy in the growing strength of Fellowship in Prayer and joy in the widening circle of praying people over the world.

As Christmas day approaches and we celebrate the birth of One who taught us how to pray, we again hear the message of *"peace on earth, good will to men,"* the song of the angels praising God. The power to bring about fulfillment of that message rests with men. It is God's gift to praying men and women.

Down through the ages men have found peace, wisdom and serenity through acknowledgment of God regardless of race, creed, learning or ignorance. The infinite sources of divine power and love are for every man. Prayer is the direct channel of blessings for each of us to use.

The wish that lies unspoken in a heart becomes a hope, the hope a whispered prayer. Supported by faith, the prayer takes volume—through faith, becomes a reality. We can be grateful that the leaders of our great nation are prayerful men. We know that in other lands many hearts are heavy with hopes unexpressed—prayers not dared to be whispered.

May our prayers this Christmastide mingle with theirs, and may our faith for the fulfillment of the Christmas message, *"peace on earth, good will to men"* be strong enough to encircle the globe, and to bring their prayers, as well as our own, to fruition.

When I came to the United States in 1948, the war had been over three years, but there was no sense of real peace in the world. The inhuman cruelties that had been perpetrated, the many people who were still being held in enemy camps, in fact, the whole aftermath of the war seemed to be in the air, and gripped human hearts with fear and uneasiness. Then came a letter from Mr. Carl Allison Evans, addressed to a mutual friend of China days, speaking of his idea. This letter seemed to bring the answer to all the uneasy questions arising in my mind. The greatness and utter simplicity of the idea of a world united in prayer for the peace of the world struck me. Mr. Evans' letter went straight to my heart, the Call he had heard seemed to resound in my ears too. It truly was the way leading to the one flock and one shepherd promised us by Christ Himself. A world united in prayer, no matter what the individual race or creed, was the answer.

A year or two later I had the privilege of meeting Mr. Evans personally, and felt the deep sincerity, the fervent faith, the great kindness that were his. No wonder that, inspired by such a God-inspired man, Fellowship in Prayer has grown as it has through the years. The man who has gone from us is possibly even nearer to us in spirit than he was before. The work he started is going on and growing. We see it in every new issue of the publication, and in the expanding number of subscribers.

May this work go on and on, and may God's blessing be with those who are carrying the burden of it. May the spirit in which Fellowship in Prayer was founded reach every human soul on earth and bind all humanity into the one flock, when the lion and the lamb will lie down together in a feeling of peace and goodwill.

-- Olga Lamkert, Florida.

The experience of fellowship through prayer, through the knowledge that many unknown friends are uniting in this wonderful expression of their faith and in the firm belief that their prayers are undergirding the causes for which prayer is offered, is to me most inspiring and stimulating and encourages me to continue in the Fellowship in Prayer.

-- Mrs. E. C. R. Laidlaw, Plainfield.

AN ANNIVERSARY

On the twelfth of December, 1957 we celebrate a humble but tremendously important birth. It was on this day in 1949 that Fellowship in Prayer came into being. Almighty God, in His great love and wisdom, planted a seed in fertile soil—the heart of our beloved founder and friend, Carl Allison Evans, who, with his beloved, and faithful wife, Emma J. Evans, through selfless consecration, untiring effort, and unfaltering faith, brought this Fellowship into being and carried it forward and, by the Will of God, lived to see the fruition of their high purpose.

The seed that God planted in the heart of Carl Evans had faith that some day it would become a strong, healthy, towering tree — a veritable tree of life — spreading its branches over all the earth, bringing help to the helpless, hope to the hopeless, faith to the faithless; sowing seeds of universal brotherhood and peace and goodwill among all the peoples of the earth; extending God's kingdom on earth, that His Will may be done on earth as it is done in heaven; bringing sunshine and gladness where there is darkness and sadness; bringing peace where there is vindictiveness; bringing the Living Christ into hearts of all men. Through unceasing prayer, selfless devotion, resolute faith, uncompromising fortitude, and the will to achieve, the faith of that divinely planted seed is being fulfilled, to the glory of God and to the good of the whole human race.

By Divine direction my wife and I read in The New York Times of December 12, 1949, the first announcement of the birth of Fellowship in Prayer. We were deeply impressed with this presentation and immediately wrote in, enlisting as co-workers in this great Christian venture. We have remained with this organization and have become one with it. This affiliation, a beautiful fellowship of kindred souls, forms one of the happiest and most enriching periods of our lives. We have watched this tree of life grow and expand until its influence is now felt over all the world.

When God, in His great love and mercy, called Carl and Emma Evans back home, the responsibility of carrying on the great work that they inaugurated, by Divine guidance, was inherited by their devoted and loyal co-laborers who have been doing a magnificent piece of work. Miss Kathryn

Brown was wisely chosen to succeed Carl Evans as executive secretary. The manner in which Miss Brown has fulfilled this trust proves the wisdom of her selection for this important post. Verily, she is a "good and faithful servant;" with a pure mind, a stout heart, a beautiful faith, great courage, and a will to attain. Her achievements are all the more noteworthy when we take into account the handicaps under which she has labored. She believes in doing good for good's sake only, with no thought of personal praise or profit, ever mindful that the real meaning and purpose of life is not to aggrandize and immortalize ourselves in the hearts of the people but to glorify God through unselfish service to our fellow creatures, for to glorify God is the fulfillment of The Law. Miss Brown cannot carry the whole load herself, however, so let us all rally to her side and all go forward together, under the banner of Christ, inspired and stimulated by that all-powerful hymn—

"Onward Christian Soldiers,
Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus
Going on before."

-- Harry Halsey Starrett, Ohio.

INSPIRATION

God bless you for sending me the June number of FELLOWSHIP IN PRAYER. Never in my long life have I read so much beauty, and such great truths in such a small book. I have been constantly overcome while reading each line!

If I had the money for gift subscriptions I would put fervor in my prayers asking God to bless each receiver as He blessed me when I read so much really inspired prayer. I am forwarding this wonderful copy to an English reading Belgian in Ghent, and I pray that it may influence his whole family.

You were inspired by Him to send me this best of all remedies today. When I took it out of its envelope I saw first of all "Life is Worth Living," when at that very moment I felt the opposite. Now I feel better, with new hope as if He spoke to me in person. Each page is real prayer, real truth in all its beauty.

-- Marie Barrow, Tennessee.

GREAT NEED — GREATER POWER

In the raucous clamor of commercial enterprise on one hand, and on the other increasing weapons capable of world destruction, and in the midst of rumors of hatred and violence in our own country, the voice of this quiet, unassuming bimonthly visitant brings assurance of God's eternal power and concern as dependable and ever present as the power of gravity, yet with the deep and tender concern of a parent for his children. With such faith we can face the future with courage.

-- Edna C. Dunlap, Chicago.

FELLOWSHIP IN PRAYER has been a source of inspiration to me and my family. As we read the thought-provoking articles, poems, prayers, and the sayings of devoted men and women, our hearts are filled with gratitude.

We need God as we need fresh air. It is therefore as natural and as necessary for us to pray as it is natural and necessary for us to breathe. We feel good after taking a deep breathing exercise. We feel comforted, encouraged, and rejuvenated after praying. As we pray we submit ourselves to God and ask him to give us wisdom and courage to do his will. As we pray saying, "God, make me an instrument of thy peace," we have inward peace immediately, and our hope for world peace is at the same time sustained. Such is the power of prayer. O, the sweet hour of prayer! In that hour how wonderful it is to keep in mind the words of Lord Tennyson who said—

" More things are wrought by prayer
than this world dreams of."

-- Shao Chang Lee, Michigan.

We certainly need an appeal for "a world united in prayer" these perilous days, for peace, understanding, and fellowship. I am proud and grateful to be associated with Fellowship in Prayer. It is so needed!

-- Pauline A. Taylor, Texas.

PRAYER and FAITH

It is my firm belief that only by prayer will the world be spared from destruction, and that for those who believe in God's goodness and guidance no prayer goes unanswered. I believe Fellowship in Prayer has done a great deal of good in the eight years of its existence, and it is my earnest hope that it will spread and extend throughout the world in the years to come, for only a world united in prayer can hope for universal understanding and peace.

-- H. H. K'ung, New York.

NO STRANGER

A human figure walks the earth,
A man who is a sign!
A Jewish mother gave him birth
In far off Palestine.
His foreign tongue sounds strange to us,
His clothes are not our kind;
His customs, - very curious
To occidental mind.

The strangest thing to notice, though,
In his symbolic case,
Is this: Wherever he may go,
In any time or place,
When people look into his eyes,
And view his kindly face,
In him they seem to recognize
No stranger to their race!

He is a sign of things to come,
When strangers will not be!
Mankind, in every face, will some
Fraternal kinship see!
Then language, color, creed and clan,
Will not breed war and hate,
But serve through gifts from every man
To make life rich and great!

-- Ralph S. Thorn.

A MESSAGE OF FAITH

By Mildred Seydell

As the year dies and another is born, I would like to give a message—A MESSAGE OF FAITH!

Let us start the New Year with faith. Faith in ourselves and faith in God. All things work together for good to them who love God. Pain and misery and poverty—what are these for those who love God, for those who have faith? Saints have burned at the stake without a whimper, with songs of praise rising above the awful crackling of the flaming fagots. It was faith that gave them courage and strength. Faith in God. I would rather have a grain of faith than a bushel of diamonds. Faith gives greater power than wealth. Faith moves all things. The value of diamonds fluctuates; wealth has vanished over night, in a short hour; but faith can endure all, has endured all!

I have written high-sounding words in splendid phrases, and they had no power. But when I have suffered and felt pain and the sting of poverty, when I have faced life and taken its rough buffeting, and have written about the faith that had kept me going—although the words were simple and the phrases as common as those used by little children, my words *have had* power.

They have inspired. They have brought men and women from the jaws of death, away from their suicidal thoughts to thoughts of God, and in turn they have felt power and have held sway over others.

* * *

Early one morning I went down behind my house to the woods in my backyard and stood under an oak tree, barren and leafless. There I communed with God. As I looked up, a great faith came to me. A glorious feeling. I saw through the black branches a radiant blue sky. "An omen," I whispered, "Look up to God through the blackness and behold the light!"

That is the message I want to give. Ahead of you, in this life or in another is light and truth and goodness. Have faith! Strive for truth. Hunger and thirst after righteousness.

Faith has nothing to do with rules and regulations and laws. Whatever can be proved needs no faith. Yet it was the faith of some one in an earlier stage which gave the energy and the determination and the inspira-

tion that worked a proof for all of our great truths.

In the beginning there was no proof, only the faith of a man or woman. Truths which today even the most skeptical, the most lacking in faith accept were once only truths of faith. For instance, the truths of mathematics, the truths of the universe, the truth of electricity.

Think above this world!

Your pains and your poverty are only disgusting when you have no FAITH. For then you are the scum of the earth. But with faith, you are the leaven, you are great.

Do not say "Faith will not clothe me, nor warn me, nor feed me." O ye of little faith, what does all this matter? True faith endures all.

At dawn on New Year's Day, awake and pray for FAITH.

LITTLE CHRIST CHILD

Long ago and far away
In a manger bed He lay;
Destined all the world to sway,
Little Christ Child.

God's own Son and born to be
King of all humanity,
Yet He gave Himself for me,
Little Christ Child.

Thou, the Way, the Truth, the Light
For our unperceptive sight,
Be our guiding star tonight,
Little Christ Child.

-- Mary Louise Strachan.

✠

Prayer is the voice of faith. —Horne.

oooOooo

Introducing—

A CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

A WESTERN ZONE ADVISOR

It is with pleasure that Fellowship in Prayer introduces to you a new contributing editor, Swami Ritajananda from Madras, India.

Swami Ritajananda joined the Ramakrishna movement soon after graduating from Adndhra University. This organization, named for Sri Ramakrishna who lived in the last half of the nineteenth century, stresses the essential unity between the various religions of the world and the importance of humanitarian service in the spiritual life. There are many branches in India and other countries.

Before coming to the United States in 1954 to become an associate minister in the Ramakrishna-Vivekananda Center in New York, Swami Ritajananda had served in a number of capacities in educational institutions in India, gave lectures on religion, and edited a paper. His present responsibilities include conducting spiritual clases and Sunday services.

It is also with pleasure that we present Mrs. Zelma Dennis who has recently become an advisor in the western zone.

Mrs. Dennis has long been interested in, and a contributor to Fellowship in Prayer. Emminently fitted by training and inclination she is a most welcome addition to our group. In her native California she has a column in a Los Angeles newspaper, writes for the Parent-Teacher Association and Boy Scout Foundation, is a member of the American Poetry League and has published four brochures of poems. Mrs. Dennis is also an active member in church and civic organizations.

A hearty welcome is extended to both Mrs. Dennis and Swami Ritajananda.

Who never shares his constant gains,
Nor helps to ease another's pains,
Treads only on the rim of living,
For life's the sum of all our giving.

-- *Grace Ware.*

oooOooo

NOTICES and COMMENTS

DR. HOCKING HONORED. Dr. William Ernest Hocking has been awarded the 1957 Lecomte du Noüy Award for his recent book, "The Coming World Civilization." He is the first American to win this award, which is presented in alternate years in the United States and France for a book that makes a significant contribution to contemporary spiritual thought. Congratulations, Dr. Hocking!

CHRISTMAS CARDS. We are grateful for the number of orders that have been received for Christmas cards. There are still some available, the price is $1.00 per dozen or $5.00 per hundred, plus postage.

SEALS. The praying hands seals have met with hearty approval from all who have used them. If you would like some, let us know.

FELLOWSHIP IN PRAYER. One of the greatest joys of the Christmas season is the host of recollections that come to mind—of companions of former years, friends, neighbors and loved ones. Why not remember them with gift subscriptions to FELLOWSHIP IN PRAYER—invitations to join *you* in this purposeful spiritual fellowship. A card signed as you may suggest will be enclosed to identify the subscription as *your* gift. The annual subscription rate is $2.00 and the publication is printed bimonthly.

APPRECIATION. Gratitude is extended to all who have helped by contributions and suggestions to make this anniversary issue of FELLOWSHIP IN PRAYER possible. Our thanks are due especially to our loyal contributing editors for their timely articles, to Prof. A. E. Johnson for the blessing for our anniversary table, to Miss LaVerne Moritz for her vignettes, and to all friends whose articles, and testimonial statements as to the value of Fellowship in Prayer, appear herein, as well as those who sent in articles that could not be included at this time, because of limited space.

May we all enter the New Year with renewed faith and hope, facing courageously and prayerfully our manifold opportunities for service, ever conscious of God's power and presence, and may the true meaning of Christmas be reflected throughout the coming year in all our efforts.

oooOooo

FELLOWSHIP ADVISORS

EASTERN ZONE:

Maude H. Brodhead
Mrs. Mabel C. Burlingham
Florence S. Dustin
Mrs. Bennie Caroline Hall
Mrs. George F. Holl, Jr.
Irene Hulbert
Mrs. William Hung
Mrs. Frank W. Lovejoy

SOUTHERN ZONE:

Olga Lamkert
Emmy Lou Schweigert

CENTRAL ZONE:

Katharine L. Beech
Mrs. A. M. Davison
Mrs. David William Harris
Harry Halsey Starrett

WESTERN ZONE:

Mrs. Zelma Dennis
Mrs. Warren P. Landon
Roy Wallace Thomas
Mrs. J. H. Titus
Mrs. Helen Dudley Young

FOREIGN ZONE:

Emilie, Lady Coote *(England)*
Mrs. Mildred Seydell *(Belgium)*

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

William Ernest Hocking
Carl E. Holmes
Alvin A. Jones
Sri Nachiketa
Swami Ritajananda
Mildred Seydell
Harry Halsey Starrett
Roy Wallace Thomas
W. J. Thompson
Ralph S. Thorn
Robert Wells Youngs

TRUSTEES and OFFICERS

William Hung, *President*

A. E. Johnson,
Mrs. Thomas M. Taylor,
Vice Presidents.
J. E. Thompson, *Treasurer*
Verall D. Wright,
Trustee.

Kathryn G. Brown, *Executive Secretary.*

oooOooo

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

All earth's lovely things and sweetest
Come to us at Christmas time;
Friendship, love, with mirth and laughter,
Happy Christmas bells achime.

Christmas trees and lighted candles
Send their gleam across the snow
Like the star in blest Judaea
On that night so long ago—

Wise men, shepherds and the manger,
Angels singing in the sky,
Holy Mary, Blessed Jesus,
Lifting all men's hearts to God on high.

-- *Ae'lis Churchill Chaphe.*

✠

Fellowship in Prayer
22 East 29th Street
New York 16, N. Y.

Send FELLOWSHIP IN PRAYER to loved ones and friend

To:

From: